

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR PARM, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCE GROUP ON SALT, NPT;

PNE'S; AND CTB

REF: A. STATE 021293, B. MOSCOW 2438

1. SUMMARY. A U.S. ACADEMIC GROUP HEADED BY MARSHALL SHULMAN (REF A) MET IN MOSCOW WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USA INSTITUTE, INSTITUTE FOR WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND OTHER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE GROUPS ON FEBRUARY 17-20. SHULMAN'S COMMENTS ON U.S.-SOVIET BILATERAL ISSUES WERE REPORTED REF B. SOVIET INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, AS EXPRESSED TO THE U.S. GROUP, CENTERED ON AN EXPLANATION FOR THE CRITICAL U.S. PUBLIC OPINION REACTION TO THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD; CRUSIE MISSILES; PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS; AND A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. ONE SOVIET PARTICIPANT OPENLY ADMITTED THAT THE SOVIET DEFENSE BUDGET IS GROWING FASTER THAN THAT OF THE U.S., EXPLAINING THAT THEY MUST NOW ARM FOR A "SECOND ADVERSARY" -- CHINA. THE AMERICAN GROUP ALSO
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DISCUSSED NPT WITH THEM, BUT IT IS OUR IMPRESISION THAT

THE SOVIETS HAD LITTLE TO SAY OF INTEREST ON THAT ISSUE. IN GENERAL, THE AMERICANS FOUND THEIR SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS WERE RELATIVELY ILL-INFORMED IN COMPARISON WITH THEIR HOSTS IN THE PAST. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ANSWER TO SOVIET QUESTIONS ON REASONS FOR THE CRITICAL U.S. PUBLIC REACTION TO THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT, THE U.S. GROUP EMPHASIZED THAT CRITICISM HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, BUT RATHER AGAINST THE HIGH CEILINGS THEMSELVES. THE U.S. GROUP ALSO ASSURED THE SOVIETS THAT EXPERT OPINION IN THE U.S. WAS NEARLY UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORTING THE AGREEMENT AS A WELCOME STEP WHICH WILL MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL CONSIDERABLY EASIER.

3. P.L. KAPITSA, A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY'S PRESIDUM, EXPRESSED OPEN INTEREST IN CRUISE MISSILES, ASKING A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON SIZE, PERFORMANCE, ENGINE THRUST, FUEL CONSUMPTION, AND SO ON. THE U.S. GROUP STRESSED THAT DANGERS PRESENTED BY POSSIBLE MINIATURIZATION OF STRATEGIC SYSTEMS, CRUISE MISSILES INCLUDED, WHICH COULD REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. THIS COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO DANGEROUS DESTABILIZATION OF THE STRATEGIC BALANCE. THRUST OF PRESENTATION BY THE U.S. GROUP WAS THAT NEITHER NATION CAN FEEL TOO SECURE ABOUT THE SEEMING RESPITE PROVIDED BY THE PROBABLE FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF SALT II, BUT MUST IMMEDIATELY MOVE TO FURTHER STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITS. THE U.S. GROUP CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET STARTED TO THINK THAT FAR AHEAD. AS AN ILLUSTRATION, U.S. GROUP MADE POINT THAT MOBILE LAND-BASED ICBM'S PRESENT NO GREAT DESTABILIZING FACTOR NOW BECAUSE OF ENORMOUS STRIKE CAPABILITIES PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD; IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED TO REDUCE THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILING, HOWEVER, THEY COULD TAKE ON NEW SIGNIFICANCE. THEIR DEVELOPMENT MUST THEREFORE BE STOPPED NOW.

4. ON PNE'S, SOVIET POSITION WAS LAID OUT PRIMARILY BY V.N. RODIONOV, A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION AT
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PRESENT PNE NEGOTIATIONS. FYI, U.S. PNE DELEGATION NOW IN MOSCOW HAS FOUND RODIONOV TO BE A STRONG PNE ADVOCATE WITH LITTLE FEEL FOR EITHER U.S. OR SOVIET POLITICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY. END FYI. RODIONOV FREELY DISCUSSED VARIOUS VERIFICATION REGIMES FOR PNE'S, INCLUDING VERIFICATION BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY AND ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROJECTS AND YIELD. HE ALSO SUGGESTED VERIFICATION THROUGH

REPRESENTATION BY VERIFYING SIDE IN COOPERATIVE WORK ON PNE PROJECTS. ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE LTBT, RODIONOV AIRILY DISPOSED OF LATTER AS A "PIECE OF PAPER" WHICH SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF "PROGRESS." THE AMERICAN GROUP SAID THAT OTHER SOVIETS PRESENT AT THE TIME WERE SOMEWHAT NONPLUSSED BY RODIONOV'S DISMISSAL OF THE LTBT, AND EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH HIS POINT OF VIEW. THE AMERICAN SCHOLARS EMPHASIZED THAT SUPPORT FOR THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF PNE'S WAS FAR FROM UNANIMOUS AMONG SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS; V.S. YEMEL'YANOV (CHAIRMAN OF THE ACADEMY'S "COMMISSION OF SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS OF DISARMAMENT") AND M.A. MARKOV (SECRETARY OF THE ACADEMY'S NUCLEAR PHYSICS DEPARTMENT) SEEMED TO BE ESPECIALLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THEM.

5. THE AMERICAN SCHOLARS APPARENTLY SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON THE NPT WITH THE SOVIETS WHO, IN THEIR WORDS, "MOSTLY LISTENED." THE U.S. GROUP DID NEVERTHELESS COME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S. WERE NOT WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES ON NON-PROLIFERATION.

6. IN DISCUSSIONS OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, THE SOVIETS SAID THAT SUCH A BAN IS POSSIBLE, BUT WOULD HAVE TO CONTAIN A CHINESE ESCAPE HATCH FOR THEM EITHER IN THE FORM OF A PERIODIC REVIEW FORMULA OR PROVISION FOR WITHDRAWAL IN CASE OF A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

7. DURING DISCUSSION USA INSTITUTE HARDWARE EXPERT SYATOV OPENLY ADMITTED THAT THE USSR DEFENSE BUDGET WAS GROWING FASTER THAN THAT OF THE U.S. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE 1960'S THE U.S. HAD HAD TWO ADVERSARIES, AND ITS BUDGET HAD GROWN RAPIDLY. NOW THE USSR HAS
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TWO ADVERSARIES, AND ITS BUDGET MUST ALSO GROW ACCORDINGLY.
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